

TO: Roger D. Breed, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Gary M. Sherman/Ann Bird
Office of Special Education

SUBJECT: Notification of Vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council
(SEAC)

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Notification of Vacancies on the Special Education Advisory Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This federally required Council is composed of 27 members who serve four-year terms (i.e., approximately one-fourth of the membership of SEAC expire in August of each year). In addition to the three members who completed their terms in the spring of 2012, one member resigned due to his change in job status. All SEAC members are approved by the State Board. Securing Board approval in September of four new members and six reappointed members, who had served partial terms, will allow adequate time to provide background information and training to new members in preparation for the first meeting in September 2012. The Office of Special Education continues to seek new SEAC members through an application process reflecting the categorical representation required by federal regulations, geographical balance based on State Board of Education regions, and the diverse population of Nebraska.

Estimated Cost

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included:

1. SEAC Background Information
2. SEAC Roster for 2011-2012
3. SEAC Application Form
4. SEAC Vacancies, 2012

For additional information on this item: Contact Gary M. Sherman (402) 471-2471 gary.sherman@nebraska.gov, or Ann Bird (402) 399-0289 abird10@cox.net

Notice of Vacancy

Background Information

I. Regulatory Authority for Committee

34 C.F.R. §300.650(a), (b) and (c)

- (i) Each State shall establish and maintain, in accordance with §300.650 - §300.653, a State advisory panel on the education of children with disabilities.
- (ii) The advisory panel must be appointed by the Governor or any other official authorized under State law to make those appointments.
- (iii) If a State has an existing advisory panel that can perform the functions in 300.652, the State may modify the existing panel so that it fulfills all of the requirements of 300.650-300.653, instead of establishing a new advisory panel. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(21)(A))

34 C.F.R. §300.653(f)

(f) The advisory panel shall serve without compensation but the State must reimburse the panel for reasonable and necessary expenses for attending meetings and performing duties. The State may use funds under §300.620 for this purpose. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(21))

The Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council is conducted according to written operational procedures approved by the Commissioner of Education.

II. Committee Purpose

34 C.F.R. §300.652

The State advisory panel shall –

- (1) Advise the state education agency of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
- (2) Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- (3) Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under 618 of the Act;
- (4) Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; and
- (5) Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council Responsibilities include:

- Development of recommendations and testimony regarding special education rule revisions;
- Development of recommendations and testimony for the State Board for any Department rule or issue impacting special education programs;
- Development of recommendations formulated through identification and study of issues vital to special education in the state;
- Development of recommendations and testimony regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B and Part C State Plans and other federal regulations and applications;
- The study of issues at the request of the State Board or the Special Education Office.
- Surveying the constituency the member represents regarding issues before the Council;
- The study and review of data collected and analyzed for the Special Education Annual Performance Report; and
- Serve as the IDEA Steering Committee

III. Categories of Required Representation (Excerpts from federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—IDEA)

Sec. 1412 (21)(B)

(B) Membership--such advisory panel consist of members appointed by the Governor, or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with the education of children with disabilities, including--

- (i) Parents of children with disabilities(ages birth through 26); or individuals with disabilities;
- (ii) teachers;

- (iii) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;*
 - (iv) state and local educational official, including officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Acts;*
 - (v) administrators of programs for children with disabilities;*
 - (vi) representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;*
 - (vii) representatives of private schools and public charter schools;*
 - (viii) not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and*
 - (ix) a representative from the state child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and*
 - (x) representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.*
- Special rule A majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. (ages birth through 26).*

Consideration for membership in the Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council must include the following:

- School district representation from each of the State Board voting areas;
- A majority of the membership must be parents of children with disabilities or persons with disabilities;
- The balance of the members must be teachers of children with disabilities, persons representing state and local education officials, special education school administrators, nonpublic school administrators; representatives of other State agencies; a representative concerned with transition services, and a representative from the State corrections agencies; and
- Persons who can represent or have knowledge of the educational needs of children with a variety of disabilities.

To be effective, members need to have:

- A history of association with special education programs;
- The capability to gather concerns from and to report back to organizations or constituencies which are involved in the various aspects of the provision of special education services;
- A broad view of the system of special education services; and
- The ability to make time available to actively participate in at least four (4) Special Education Advisory Council meetings.

Council meetings are held approximately every eight weeks throughout the school year. The first meeting of each school year will be determined during the last meeting of the previous school year. The Special Education Advisory Council meeting schedule for the remainder of the school year will be determined by a roll call vote during the first meeting of each school year.

**NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
2011-2012**

Name	Category	Association/Constituency/City	Term Expires	St. Bd. Dist.
Priscilla Beckmann	(ii)	Fremont Public Schools	2013	3
Margaret Bitz ♦	(ix)	NDHHS	2012	1
John Bright ♦	(iv)	Omaha Public Schools	2012	4
Diane Bruha	(v)	Crete Public Schools	2013	5
Bethany Brunzman	(i), (ii)	Lincoln	2013	1
Janet Busse	(i)	St. Paul	2012	6
Jane Byers	(iv),(v)	Papillion-LaVista Schools	2014	2
Bridget Cannon-Hale	(i), (vi)	Nebraska PTI, Omaha	2013	8
Millie Demuth	(i)	Lincoln	2014	1
Cindy Ellis ♦	(i, iii, vi))	Elkhorn, UNMC	2012	4
Bill Goodwin	(vii)	Madonna School, Omaha	2014	2
Mary Gordon ♦	(vi)	Develop. Dis.--DHHS, Lincoln	2015	1
Judy Hall ♦	(iii)	Hastings College	2012	5
Sue Kemp	(i,iii)	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	2014	1
Jamie Krien ♦	(i)	Waverly	2012	1
Steve Larsen ♦	(x)	Mitchell	2012	7
Kris McMullen	(ii)	CNSSP, Grand Island	2014	6
Brenda McNiff	(i) (v)	Beatrice Public Schools	2015	5
Norma Mercer	(i)	Beatrice	2014	5
Maggie Mintken	(viii)	Transition Services	2013	6
Ryan O'Grady	(v)	Grand Island Public Schools	2015	6
Denise Powell	(i)	Lincoln	2015	1
Kelly Randels ♦	(i, ii)	Millard	2014	8
JoAnne Roberts	(i),(v)	Norfolk Public Schools	2015	3
Julie Stahla	(i)	Grand Island	2012	6
Mike Steinwart ♦	(i)	Cozad	2013	7
Karen Thode □	(i)	Omaha	2012	4

♦ SEAC Executive Committee

□ SEAC Chair

◆ Eligible for Reappointment (Initially appointed to a partial term to fill an unexpired term due to resignation. Will now be recommended for reappointment to a full four-year term.)

Shaded Areas = Vacancies

Nebraska Department of Education

Ann Bird abird10@cox.net	402-399-0289 Home 402-659-1133 Cell	16235 California St Omaha, NE 68118	SEAC Facilitator
<i>Pam Kasl</i> pamkasl@aol.com	402-423-4138 Home 402-471-2471 Work 402-423-4138 Fax	NDE P.O. Box 94987 Lincoln, NE 68509-4987	NDE/SEAC Recorder

Return to: Ann Bird
Special Education Office
Nebraska Department of Education
16235 California St.
Omaha, NE 68118

NDE 06-033
Revised 5/11

Due Date: June 30

Application for Membership For Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council

I. Complete the following:

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

Phone: _____
(Area Code/Home Phone) (Area Code/Business Phone) (Area Code/Fax Number)

II. A. all that apply to you.

- I am a parent of a child (children) with a disability(ies).
Specify disability(ies): _____
 Birth to 3 years old 3 years to 5 years old 6 years to 21 years old

 - I am a person with a disability(ies)
Specify disability(ies): _____

 - I am an education service provider. (the appropriate title)
____ Superintendent
____ Principal
____ Teacher/special educator (teaching assignment)
____ Nonpublic School personnel
____ College/University Instructor
____ Special Education Director/Supervisor
____ Other (Specify): _____
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III. Complete the following:

A. Do you belong to an organization which is involved in some aspect of special education?

Yes No

• Name of Organization(s): _____

• To what extent have you been involved in this organization(s)? _____

- Would you be able to gather concerns from and report back to the organization(s) you listed?
Yes No

B. Meetings are usually held on Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Would you be able to commit time to attend at least four such meetings during the school year (i.e., secure release time from work)?
Yes No

C. What history of association with or interest in special education programs do you have?

IV. Provide any other pertinent information:

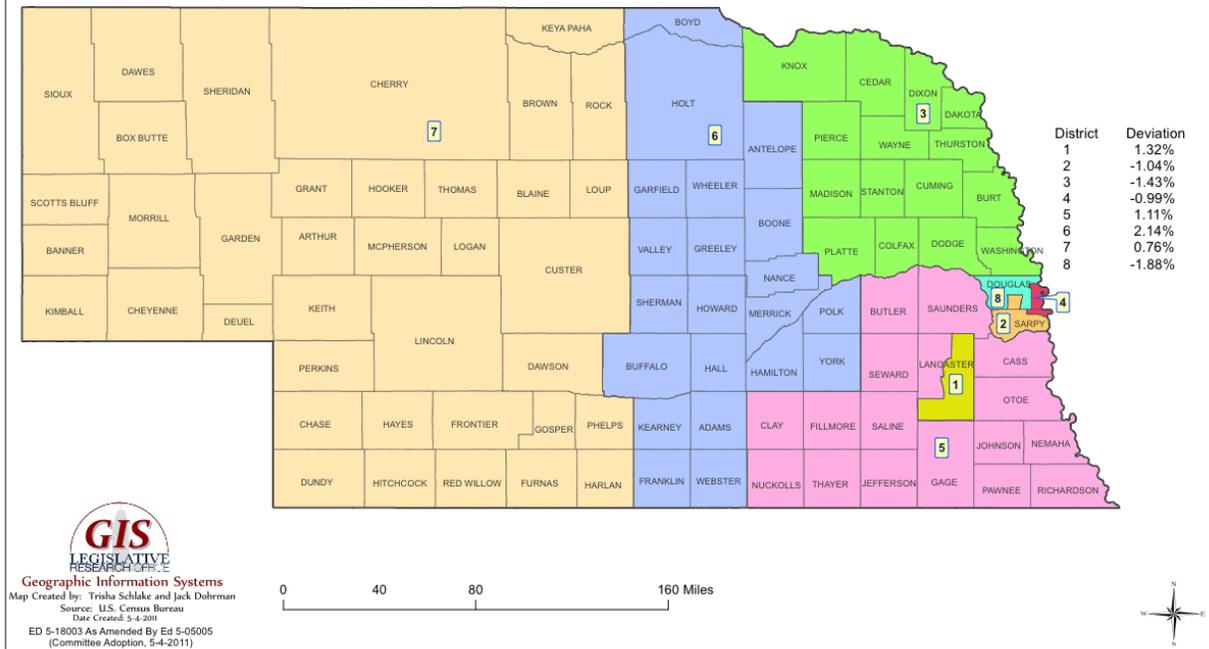
Signature of Applicant	Date of Application
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Return to:

Attn: Ann Bird
Special Education Office
Nebraska Department of Education
16235 California St.
Omaha, NE 68118

State Board of Education - LB 702 (2011)

ED11



VACANCIES ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC) 2012-2016

Three positions on the Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council are vacant for four-year terms running from August 2012-July 2016, and one position is vacant for a two-year unexpired term, running from August 2012-July 2014. The individuals nominated for these vacancies must represent the following State Board of Education regions and constituent representation categories in any combination.

State Board of Education Regions

- **State Board District 2** **1 vacancy**
- **State Board District 8** **1 vacancy**
- **Any State Board District** **2 vacancies**

Representation Categories

- **Three Parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26) or individuals with disabilities**
- **One representative of non-public schools**